

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~delivering or sampling~~ transferring an agent through the stratum corneum of a subject, comprising the steps of:

providing a microprotrusion member having one or more stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions;

placing said microprotrusion member proximate a skin site on the subject;

~~forming one or more microslits through the stratum corneum by causing said microprotrusions to impact the stratum corneum with a power of at least~~ striking said microprotrusion member with an impact force, whereby said microprotrusion member imparts an energy on impact with the stratum corneum in the range of approximately 0.05 - 3 joules per cm² of [[the]] said microprotrusion member in no greater than 10 milliseconds or less, and whereby at least one of said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions forms a microslit through the stratum corneum of the subject; and

~~delivering or sampling an~~ transferring the agent through said microslits microslit.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A method of ~~delivering or sampling~~ transferring an agent through the stratum corneum of a subject, comprising the steps of:

providing a microprotrusion member having one or more stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions;

~~forming one or more microslits through the stratum corneum by causing said microprotrusions to impact the stratum corneum with a power of at least~~ striking said microprotrusion member with an impact force, whereby said microprotrusion member imparts an energy on impact with the stratum corneum in the range of approximately [[0.05]] 0.1 - 0.3 joules per cm² of [[the]] said microprotrusion member in the range of 1-10 milliseconds or less, and whereby at least one of said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions forms a microslit through the stratum corneum of the subject; and

~~delivering or sampling a drug~~ transferring the agent through said microslits microslit.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A method of ~~delivering or sampling~~ transferring an agent through the stratum corneum of a subject, comprising the steps of:

providing a microprotrusion member having one or more stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions;

providing an impact applicator adapted to provide a first impact force;

placing said microprotrusion member proximate a skin site on the subject;

placing said impact applicator proximate said skin site in operational relationship with said microprotrusion member;

actuating said impact applicator to impart said first impact force to said microprotrusion member, whereby said microprotrusion member imparts an energy on

~~forming one or more microslits through the stratum corneum by causing said microprotrusions to impact with~~ the stratum corneum with a power of at least 0.05 in the range of 0.1 – 0.3 joules per cm² of [[the]] said microprotrusion member in a first period of time in the range of 1 – 10 milliseconds or less, and whereby at least one of said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions forms a microslit through the stratum corneum of the subject; and

~~delivering or sampling a vaccine~~ transferring the agent through said ~~microslits~~ microslit.

Claims 4-39 Canceled

Claim 40. (Withdrawn) A method of delivering or sampling a biologically active agent through the stratum corneum, comprising:

providing a microprotrusion member having a plurality of stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions;

forming one or more microslits through the stratum corneum by causing said microprotrusions to impact the stratum corneum with a power of at least 0.05 joules per cm² of the microprotrusion member in 10 milliseconds or less; and

delivering or sampling the biologically active agent through said microslits.

Claim 41. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40, wherein said agent comprises a drug.

Claim 42. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40, wherein said agent comprises a vaccine.

Claim 43. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40, wherein each of said plurality of stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions has a length less than 500 μm .

Claim 44. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40, wherein said agent is contained in a coating disposed on at least one of said plurality of stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions.

Claim 45. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40, wherein said microprotrusions impact said stratum corneum with a power of at least 0.05 joules per cm² of said microprotrusion member in 1 millisecond or less.

Claim 46. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions have a length less than 500 µm.

Claim 47. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of a drug, vaccine, glucose and body analyte.

Claim 48. . (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions have a length less than 500 µm.

Claim 49. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of a drug, vaccine, glucose and body analyte.

Claim 50. The method of Claim 3, wherein said step of placing said impact applicator proximate said skin site comprises applying a hold down force to said skin site in the range of approximately 0.5 – 1 kg.

Claim 51. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions have a length less than 500 µm.

Claim 52. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of a drug, vaccine, glucose and body analyte.